

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-21 and 29-32 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 18-21, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable by Koto et al. (6,671,376).

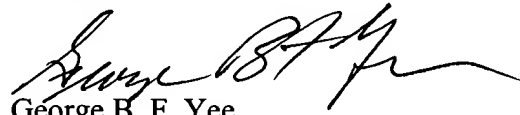
Claims 2-6, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koto et al. in view of Fujinami et al. (6,192,189).

An interview was conducted with the examiner on February 24, 2006, for which the undersigned is appreciative. A discussion of the distinctions between the claims and the cited reference was conducted. It was determined and agreed that the claims could be amended to more clearly point out that they are directed to a playback device and thus distinguish over the cited art.

The pending claims have been amended accordingly. The claims recite apparatus and methods for playback circuitry in the playback device. As amended, the claims recite limitations which are not found in Koto's decoder circuit (200A, Fig. 1), shown in greater detail in Fig. 8

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an additional telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

  
George B. F. Yee  
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 650-326-2400  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
GBFY:gjs:cmm  
60626366 v1